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- (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): STATOIL ASA [NO/NO]; I & K IR PAT, N-4035 Stavanger (NO).
- (71) Applicant (*for MG only*): POWER, Philippa [GB/GB]; Frank B. Dehn & Co, 179 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EL (GB).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): ZAHLESEN, Kolbjorn [NO/NO]; Steinhangen 11, NO-7049 Trondheim (NO). EIDE, Ingvar [NO/NO]; Ole Nordgaardsvei 4A, N-7049 Trondheim (NO).

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(54) Title: FINGERPRINTING OF COMPLEX HYDROCARBON CONTAINING MIXTURES

(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method of analysing a complex hydrocarbon-containing mixture, the method comprising the steps of: obtaining a liquid sample of the complex hydrocarbon-containing mixture; injecting the sample into a liquid carrier flowing to a mass spectrometer, wherein the mass spectrometer is set so as to ionise molecules in the sample without causing fragmentation thereof; recording a mass spectrum for ions obtained from the sample; and using the mass spectrum to obtain fingerprint of the mixture. In one embodiment, two or more mass spectra are recorded and are combined to obtain a fingerprint of the mixture.

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